

# Touchstone

Surrey  
Earth  
Mysteries

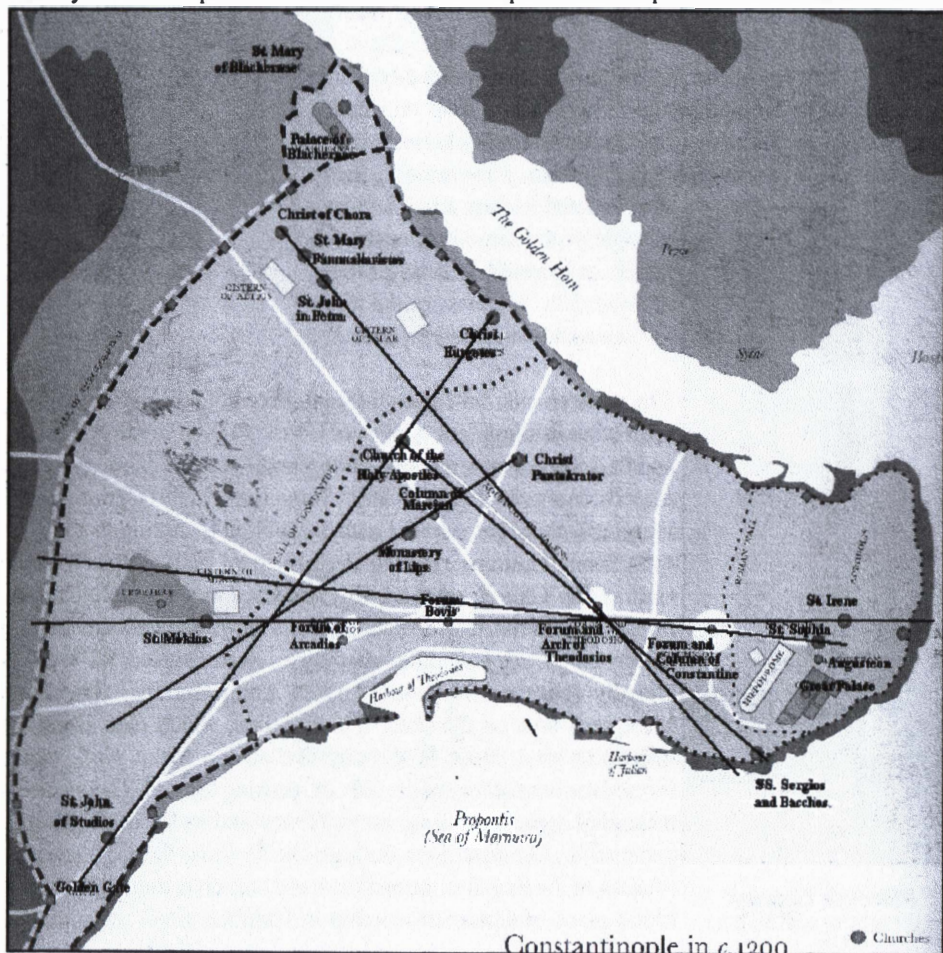


No. 84

## THE BYZANTINE TRIANGLE

January 2009

The Royal Academy are running a very interesting exhibition on Byzantium at the moment. The Byzantine Empire succeeded the Roman Empire when Emperor Constantine moved his



Constantinople in c. 1200

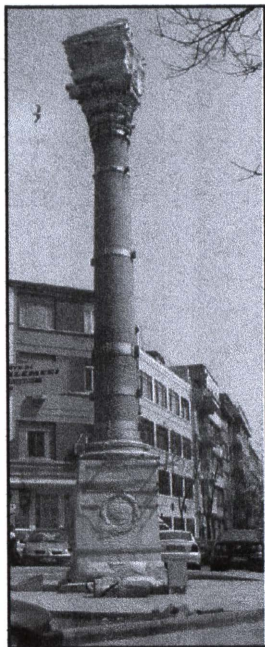
● Churches



capital on to this eastern promontory from Rome in 330, and it ruled a constantly varying area for a thousand years, finally ending when the Ottoman Turks invaded in 1453. The former settlement had been called Byzantium, but Constantine renamed it Nova Roma (New Rome). However, for some reason the name never stuck, and the city came to be called Constantinople. It was Christian, as Constantine had made this the state religion, and was the origin of the church we know as the Orthodox Church.

There are many interesting exhibits illustrating life in Constantinople and the empire over this very long period - at court, at home and in church. One early example was a Roman mosaic pavement found in Thebes, depicting the months of the year in human form. Another interesting one was the Antioch Chalice, which is one of the contenders for the Holy Grail, although when I dowsed it asking if Jesus had held it, the answer seemed to be "No".

However, as a ley hunter it was the churches in the city which revealed something amazing. There was a map on display which showed all the churches in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in 1200. I was fascinated to find that, when aligning them, they seemed to form three leys in a triangle of the same proportions as the Great Pyramid, with base angles of about  $52^\circ$ . The base of the triangle seems to run due east-west.



*Marcian Column*



*The Antioch Chalice*

The western side first goes through three churches quite close to each other in alignment - Christ of Chora, St. Mary Pammakaristos and St. John in Petra, then the Forum and Arch of Theodosios. The eastern one goes through Christ Eurgetes and the Church of the Holy Apostles, runs parallel with the Wall of Constantine and goes to St. John of Studios, running along the road leading to the Golden Gate. (The Church of the Holy Apostles was the second most important church in Constantinople, a large mausoleum church where emperors and other dignitaries were buried, as well as allegedly relics of SS Luke, Andrew and Timothy. The Fatih Mosque is now on the site). The baseline, which runs along the main east-west street of the city (called the Mese road, which formed the main artery of the old city, passing through Theodosius's triumphal arch, continuing on to Thrace and as far as the Balkan peninsula). The line goes through St. Mokios, then through the squares of the four forums and St. Irene, which is thought to be the oldest place of Christian worship in Istanbul.

A line from the apex through the Column of Marcian provides a perpendicular for the triangle in the square of the Forum Bovis. (The latter is named after a large statue of an ox, the head of which had been brought from Pergamon. The piazza was situated on the site of the present Aksaray Piazza).



*Church of Christ Pantokrator*

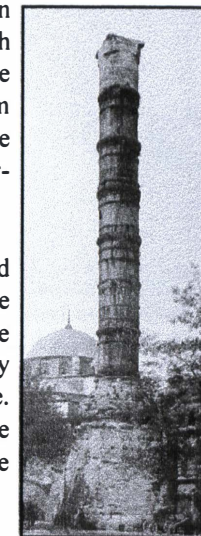


*The Million Stone*

There are also two other alignments which go through the base angles of the triangle, which seem to confirm its validity, forming ley centres of the corners. One goes through Christ Pantokrator, the column of Marcian, the Monastery of Lips and the western base angle. The other goes through the Church of the Holy Apostles, the other base angle (very near the Forum and Arch of Theodosios - today the Beyazit Mosque now marks the corner), to SS. Sergios and Bacchos.

The eastern side of the triangle could point towards Jerusalem; on one of the other maps in the exhibition, the angle of a line joining Constantinople and Jerusalem is  $55^\circ$ , but this discrepancy could be due to the fact that, at this distance, the line would be a curve. The line also seems to go through Nicaea, where Constantine held the first Christian council, which produced the Nicene Creed.

The significance of the figure seems confirmed by the east-west orientation, the relationship with various roads (in other words, the lines seem to be leys), and other alignments leading to the corners. It is strange that the cathedral, St. Sophia, is not on one of the lines, but the street leading from it aligns with the Column of Constantine and the eastern corner of the triangle. This line could also go through the Million Stone, from which distances to other places in the Byzantine Empire were measured.



*Column of Constantine*

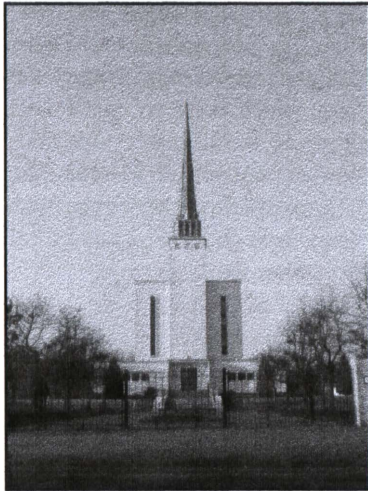
## **A MORMON TEMPLE IN SURREY**

**by Bob Shave**

In August 1953 senior members of the Mormon Church in the United States stood in gardens outside a mock-Tudor mansion at Newchapel near Lingfield and were well pleased. President David O. Mackay of the Church turned to the others and said, "This is the place where we will build the London Temple"<sup>1</sup>. Rural east Surrey had been chosen in preference to a far more



central location in Wimbledon as the site for the UK's first Mormon temple. This article examines the decision.



*The London Temple of the Mormon church at Newchapel*

### Temples in the Mormon Church

The full name of the Mormon Church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Their temples are rare. There are only five in western Europe and two in the UK (the other is near Preston, Lancashire). They are not places of regular Sunday worship, which are known as chapels or meeting houses. They are instead regional centres for training and special ceremonies known as "ordinances" which are particular to the Mormon Church. Inside there is not a large open space like the nave of an ordinary church or cathedral, but rather the interior is divided up into "ordinance rooms" and other rooms such as a dining room, kitchen and laundry rooms. Non-Mormons are not allowed to enter temples and even a member of the Church needs to be granted special permission to enter.

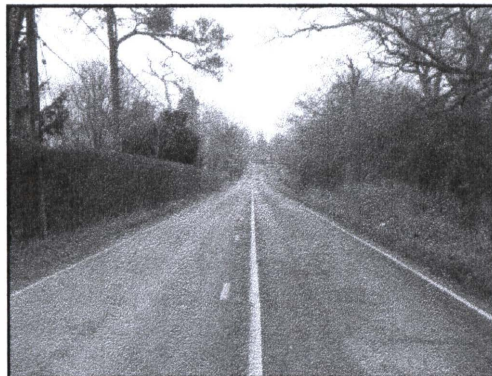
### The 1950s

Not all reasons for the Newchapel site's selection are known. The proximity of Gatwick Airport a few miles away could not have been a factor as it was not a busy airport at that time. What we do know is that when David O. McKay visited Newchapel, straight away he hoped that the temple could be built there. Another President of the church, A. Hamer Reiser, waxed lyrical about the area's history:

*Newchapel is rich in allusions of time. The brook running through it is called Eden; the Romans built the road which is now the A22 to the Channel...the area around Newchapel was occupied by the Celts, and after the Romans by Saxons and Danes<sup>2</sup>.*

A large oak tree in front of the temple site was to be preserved during construction.

President McKay had a favourite route to the Newchapel site, one that "diverts from the main road at Godstone and passes through almost uninterrupted foliage"<sup>2</sup>. This description of the route is almost certainly referring to Tilburstow Hill Road, which crosses



*Roman road aligned on the temple, three miles away*

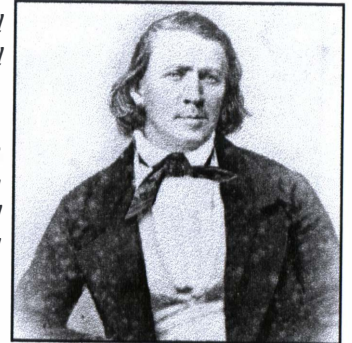
the E-line at Tilburstow Hill, and follows the old Roman London-to-Brighton road where the modern A22 deviates from it. The half-mile of the road near Blindley Heath is aligned on the temple, three miles to the south.

After construction of the temple, its garden was designed by Gertrude Jekyll. President Reiser said of the garden:

*The aromas of Newchapel hover like haloes among the flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. The fragrances of violets, narcissi, roses, viburnum, spruce and cedar are everywhere. No wonder the butterflies and bees, the blackbirds, thrush, nuthatch, pheasant and waterfowl adopt Newchapel as their special haven.*

*The past, the present of all creation are richly in evidence in Newchapel. Time has been liberally vested there: a lovely reminder of the "lost garden where the world began", it will henceforward also remind us of the eternal garden to be regained.<sup>2</sup>*

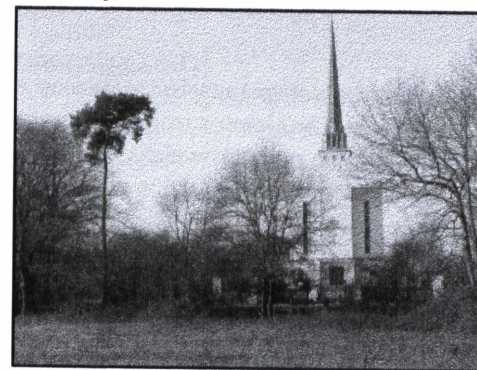
Compare this with the reaction of Brigham Young, an early Mormon leader, when in 1847 an advanced party of Mormon settlers reached the Salt Lake Valley in Utah. When Young saw the valley he reputedly stood in his carriage and said, "This is the place, drive on". Another man's quote was, "The sky is clear, the air is delightful, and all together looks glorious."<sup>3</sup> There has always been a tendency in the Mormon church to sense intuitively the right place for a temple.



*Brigham Young, early Mormon leader*

### The temple today – observations

The temple, beside a roundabout on the A22, is located at grid reference TQ 363 422 and is a prominent landmark. Many Mormon temples around the world are similarly placed on transport corridors where they will be noticed. The Newchapel temple is not a particularly welcoming place when walking past, surrounded by high fences and having the feel of an international corporate headquarters, which in some sense it is. The Mormons' emphasis on security probably dates back to the church's early years, when there was a history of hostility from the outside world and persecution.



*The temple and the pine tree*

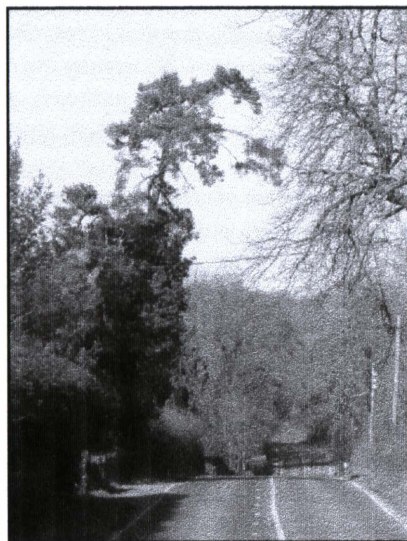


In fairness to the temple, they do have a visitor centre which is publicised from time to time, though this is not immediately obvious from the outside.

A pine tree near the temple has developed an unusual shape, curling over at the top, leaning, not directly towards the temple but rather towards the entrance to the temple grounds from the A22.



*The pine tree near the temple - close-up*



*Pine trees on the Roman road*

Similar shapes are seen in pine trees along the aligned Roman road to the north - they curl over towards the road. Is this an earth-energy attraction?

#### **Early history of the site**

There was a reference to "the new chapel" in 1534. This was a chapel attached to the manor of Hedgecourt.<sup>4</sup> It is not clear exactly where this chapel was. The Mormon temple site is just within the parish of Felbridge, immediately adjacent to the parish boundary. Ordnance Survey maps from the 19th and early 20th centuries show no clear indication of a chapel although the crossroads is marked "New Chapel".

#### **Conclusion**

In the early 1950s members of one of the world's fastest growing churches crossed an ocean to plant the church's first UK temple in east Surrey. There is some indication that there was an intuitive attraction both to the site itself and to a route leading to it via an aligned Roman road. Energy effects may be responsible for unusually-shaped trees near the temple and beside the Roman road.

#### **Footnote - late 2008**

On 15th December 2008 the latest addition was made to the temple building, to commemorate its 50th anniversary. A helicopter lifted a golden statue of an angel to the top of the spire where it was fixed and will stay permanently. This is in keeping with Mormon temples worldwide which commonly feature a similar statue. The event was reported in the local paper under the headline "Visitors flock to see a golden angel delight!"<sup>5</sup> The statue will be illuminated at night and will add to the spectacle of what is already a dramatic landmark.

#### **References**

- [1] Edward O. Anderson, The Making of a Temple <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/3158/anderson.htm>
- [2] Terry Warner, A Temple for Great Britain <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/3158/warner.htm>
- [3] Roger M. Thompson, The Mormon Church, 1993, pp.112-113.
- [4] J.E.B.Gover, A.Mawer, F.M.Stenton, The Place Names of Surrey, English Place Name Society vol. 11 (1969), p.319.
- [5] Sian Hewitt, East Grinstead Courier and Observer, 18/12/2008, p.3.

### **NOTES AND NEWS**

#### **LONDONEARTHMYSTERIESCIRCLEMEETINGS**

**7.15 P.M. Tuesdays, at the Theosophical Society, 50, Gloucester Place, London.**

**January 27th** The Folklore of London, by Anthony Clayton

**February 10th** Trackways, Green Routes and Scots Pines: Drovers' Routes to London, by Nigel Pennick

**February 24th** A New Imponderable: The History of Animal Magnetism, by Mark McCann

**March 10th** Investigating Mediumship, by Patsy Langley

**March 24th** Hauntings and Freeing Trapped Spirits, by Gareth Medway

**April 14th** Open Forum and Social

#### **TEMSMEETINGS**

**2.00 p.m. Sundays at Wimbledon - please ring 0208-544-9478**

**25th January** From Jesus to Romeo and Juliet via the Holy Grail, by Gloria Moss

**22nd February** The Quest for Knowledge in the Ancient World, by Simon Michell

**29th March** Altered States of Consciousness, by Professor Gwyn Hocking

**26th April** Just how Sacred are our Sacred Sites?, by Ken Rees

#### **Hatshepsut's Ley**

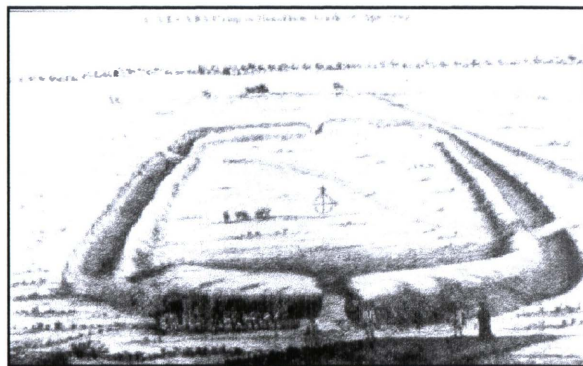
On a recent TV programme, Secrets of Ancient Egypt, it was revealed that the straight entrance way to Hatshepsut's Temple aligns exactly with the entrance way to the Temple of Amun across the river. Not only this, but her tomb was also built on the same alignment, the first of the Pharaohs' tombs to be built in an underground chamber in the Valley of the

Kings rather than a pyramid. Hatshepsut was the first woman Pharaoh of Egypt, and the temple she built was vast and opulent.

### Cropmark at Heathrow

There was a rectangular earthwork known as Caesar's Camp, and drawn by William Stukeley, at a place which is now the east end of the north runway of Heathrow Airport. This is described in "The excavation of Caesar's Camp, Heathrow, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1944", published in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 59:

"The definitive account of Grimes's excavations of the rectangular earthwork at Heathrow Airport has refined his interpretations: it is now seen that a late Bronze Age occupation (attested by pottery scatters) was followed by 11 middle Iron Age round houses and a couple of ?late Iron Age features. The rectangular building, of middle or late Iron Age, remains unique in Britain but is like some Romano-Celtic temples."

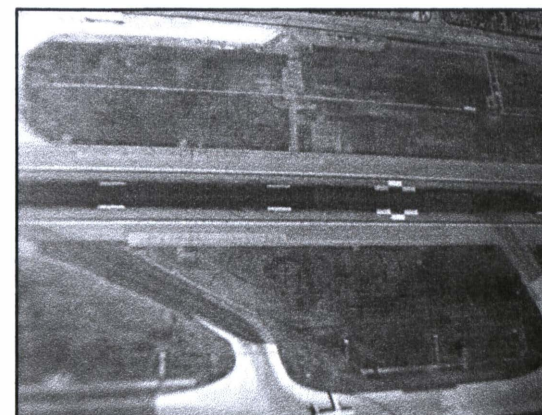


*The earthwork drawn by William Stukeley*

Gillian Clegg, in *The Archaeology of Hounslow*, writes of it: "One of the most interesting settlements at Heathrow lies directly under Runway One. Here, excavations in 1944 unearthed an Iron Age village containing 11 hut circles and a rectangular building, thought by its excavator to be the remains of a shrine or a temple. Since Iron Age temples are uncommon in Britain this find has attracted a great deal of interest. It suggests perhaps that the site functioned as a religious centre for a larger community than actually lived within the settlement. The earliest phase of huts dates to the Bronze Age. The huts were subsequently re-sited and surrounded by a massive bank and ditch which was still visible in the 19th Century and from which the site derived its nickname of Caesar's Camp."

The site was excavated in 1944, but was thought to have been obliterated by the airport. However, in the recently published BBC book *Britain from Above*, there seems to be a rectangular cropmark visible in the grass around the east end of the north runway.

This is on a very interesting and significant ley that has been described in *Touchstone* previously, which runs along the course of the Roman Silchester-London road in its stretch between Sunningdale and the west end of the Egham Causeway, which the Surrey Historic Environment Record records as possibly the course of the Roman road remade in medieval times.

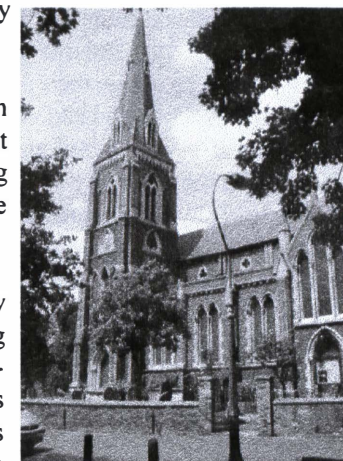


*The rectangular mark around the runway at Heathrow*

The alignment first passes through Sunningdale Church and road junction - a very important spot as it is a modern meeting of ways, with the Roman road, and a ley centre also on the Silchester ley discovered previously, which goes through the two Roman temples and early church site in the city of Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester. It is then coincident with the now vanished Roman road stretch, in alignment with the stretch in Sunningdale still visible, running to the west end of Egham Causeway

It then goes through Egham United Church, a local union of Methodists and Presbyterians, and through a Bronze Age site at the end of the Causeway, then across Staines Moor to reach Heathrow Airport chapel, a strange underground concrete cave marked on the surface by a cairn of stones surmounted by a cross. This chapel seemed to have powerful head-hum, and seems almost certainly subconsciously sited. Then it crosses the north runway where the cropmark is.

The next point on the line is Hanwell Church, a Victorian building on an earlier site with a tall spire and a straight path immediately adjacent which is another ley aligning 8 churches. There is also a very spectacular double pine tree near it.



*Hanwell Church*

From here the line runs along a short stretch of boundary and goes through a major cross-roads before reaching the Neasden Mandir - a resplendent Hindu temple dedicated to the Hindu deity Lord Swaminarayan, who is worshipped mainly in the Gujarat region in India. It was built in 1995 as a replica of the Akshardam temple in western India. An elaborate construction of limestone and marble, it took over a thousand sculptors to build it.

The 50,000 tons of rock was shipped to India where traditional craftsmen carved it, and it was then shipped to London to be erected - all at a cost of around £10 million. This is the largest Hindu temple outside India.

The line continues to cross Watling Street, the Roman road to St. Albans, at a precise right



angle, before going to Hampstead Garden Suburb and the Norrice Lea Orthodox Synagogue. This building dates from 1933. The ley then goes through two more churches on the West London Ordnance Survey map.

This is a very interesting line, with Roman road stretch and prehistoric sites, as well as apparently subconsciously sited places of worship of a number of different faiths. The presence of the cropmark, and the likelihood that it was a religious centre, is further confirmation of it and the subconscious siting theory.



*The Neasden Mandir*

#### **The Golden Fish**

At the RILKO meeting in November Jonathan Harwood revealed an amazing discovery in the placing of churches in the Dorset landscape. He was inspired originally by Henry Lincoln's study of the patterns created by the positions of churches around Rennes-le-Chateau, in France, where there are five peaks forming a precise pentagram. He proposed that a line nearly equal to 188mm on a map at scale 1:25000 was the key to these patterns. He then spent several years examining the positions of churches in Dorset; this has culminated in the discovery of an extraordinary figure, a square overlaid by a rectangle, marked clearly by eight churches, that he has called "The Golden Fish". This incorporates the "key" 188mm measure that is shown to be an exact and significant distance in Roman feet. This figure provides new evidence that the positions of churches mark deliberate patterns in a landscape that has been enchanted by sacred geometry. The whole area seems to be based on a very complex geometry with many isosceles triangles - one formed of 3,4,5 right-angled triangles, and with corners at Bradford Peveril and Stinsford churches, and the Roman temple at Maiden Castle. A number of the lines converge on a church in Dorchester which only dates from the 1840s, but is on the intersection of Roman roads and, like Silchester Church, is just inside the Roman town - possibly subconsciously sited.

Jonathan Harwood concludes that "this and other patterns marked by the positions of temples in the age of Pisces are deliberate and ancient in origin. This was a 'living tradition' within which patterns such as the Golden Fish were possibly added more recently. Perhaps to coincide with the transition from the previous astrological age. They have been preserved through site continuity and perhaps also through an underground stream of knowledge that has looked after and added to this tradition, solis sacerdotibus, as it says

in one of Lincoln's coded parchments, almost down to the present day".

#### **Egham and Thorpe Virtual Roman Museum**

This is a web site which I have started recently on the "lost" stretch of the Roman Silchester-London road between Sunningdale and Staines, and the apparent branch road branching from it at Egham and running to Thorpe and towards Chertsey, of which there seems to be a fairly well preserved banked section leading from Stroude Road. Thorpe Church, of which there is evidence that it may be a Mithraeum site, is also on the line of the branch road. These matters have been published in *Touchstone* from time to time.

The site has an interactive map of the roads, from which all the exhibits are accessible. The URL for the site is: <http://www.egyouth.fsnet.co.uk/romanegham>

### **LETTERS**

#### **from Bob Shave, East Grinstead, Sussex**

The museum site is interesting - I like the way it's designed so that you click on the map to link to other pages.

The thing that I've found the most interesting so far is the moat that might be a Roman camp. In Essex, where I am originally from, there are lots of moats and one in particular is an unusual, irregular shape (though four-sided). Leys pass along at least two of the arms of the moat, and one arm is wider than the others. If moats can preserve alignments of pre-existing earthworks then it might partially explain their shape and how they seem to mark leys.



<http://www.leyhunter.com>

## **MEYN MAMVRO**

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## **THE HIDDEN UNITY and BEGINNINGS**

*The Hidden Unity* looks at the strange phenomenon of subconscious siting of ley points, and notes that places of worship, of all religions and all ages, tend to predominate on leys. The environmental and philosophical implications of this are discussed, and the apparent necessity of worship but irrelevance of doctrine. Two ley centres are given as examples, and investigated in depth - the Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking and the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, Scunthorpe. There is an appendix by Eileen Grimshaw on the significance of the Pagan religion to this study. Illustrated with photographs, maps and line drawings. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

*Beginnings* is about a series of potentially useful discoveries, mainly made by Jimmy Goddard over a period of about twenty years, but having some overlap with discoveries made by others. For various reasons, the investigations are all in their early stages, and some have not been continued. They include earth energy detection, natural antigravity, subconscious siting, ley width, and the solar transition effect. There is also a chapter on cognitive dissonance - a psychological factor which seems to have been at the root of all bigotry - scientific, religious and other - down the ages. The booklet is concluded with an account of the discovery of leys by Alfred Watkins. **£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

## **EARTH PEOPLE, SPACE PEOPLE**

In 1961, Tony Wedd produced a manuscript *Earth Men, Space Men*, detailing many claims of extraterrestrial contact. It was never published, and I had thought it was lost, though it has recently been located - Tony had given it to Timothy Good. To try to make up for the loss in a much more modest size, this booklet was prepared. As well as giving details of some of the more prominent contact claims, there are articles on the history of the STAR Fellowship and some of its personalities, evidence for life in the Solar System and investigation into extraterrestrial language.

**£2 plus 30p p&p from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

## **THE LEGACY OF TONY WEDD**

This CD-ROM is an electronic form of the travelling exhibition Tony planned, using his voice, writing, photographs and drawings to illustrate his research and findings in the fields of flying saucers, landscape energies and lost technology.

**£12 from the Touchstone address. Please make cheques payable to J. Goddard.**

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